

## This May, take the time to plug into safety

**T**his month, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month, and Clay Electric Cooperative would like to share safety tips and reminders to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

### Our responsibility to you

Clay Electric's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we present a Live Line Safety Exhibit. We have attended County Fire Meetings,

visited Schools, and helped out at the Farm Bureau "Farm Safety Day". We frequently provide electrical safety content in the state-wide publication of Illinois Country Living magazine, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

### Our responsibility to employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at Clay Electric Cooperative. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to

our daily operations. In fact, Clay Electric is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equip-

ment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

As the General Manager, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. If you see something dangerous, keep others clear and call us, or other emergency responders. If you farm, stay clear of overhead lines, and poles. Before moving that auger, look up, it may just save your, or someone else's life!

Take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org) for tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe.



**I**n order to process refunds for capital credit accounts, Clay Electric Cooperative is attempting to contact members, or their heirs, that received electric service during the years 1958 – 1961.

Please go to this link <http://www.ceci.coop/content/unclaimed-capital-credits> view the entire list of unclaimed refunds. If you recognize a name on the list, please let the person know they are due a refund.



# Area Students Attend Cooperative Sponsored Youth Day in Springfield

**S**enator Dale Righter and Representative David Reis met with students representing Clay Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 29 in Springfield. More than 240 students from around Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.

During lunch, Comptroller Susana Mendoza addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest in the political process and encouraged them to use their voice and reach out to their representatives and senators. Sophia Marcolla, the 2016-17 Illinois Youth Leadership

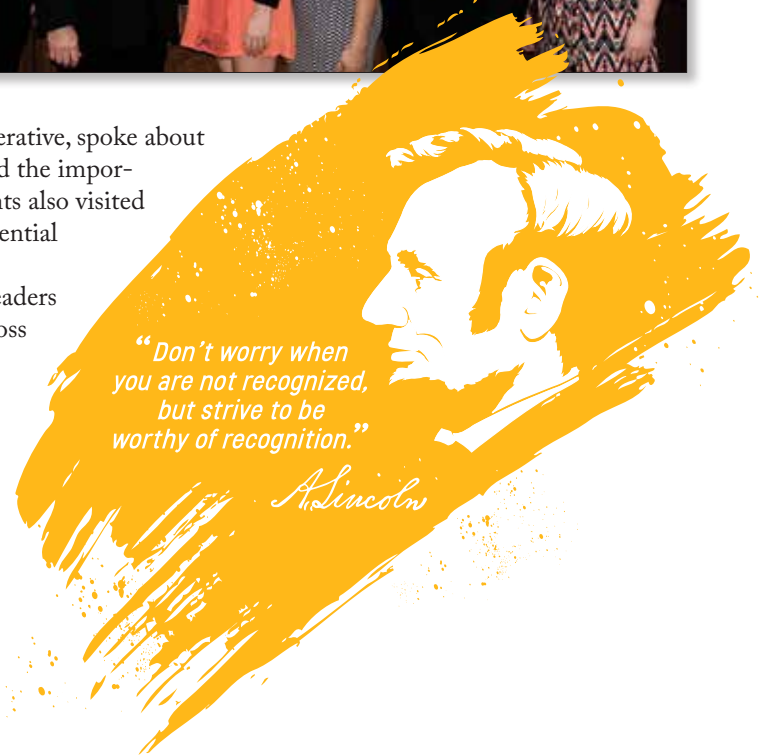
Council Representative from Adams Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experience on the Youth to Washington tour and the importance of leadership. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 25 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.

Clay Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Clay Electric Co-operative serves more than 3,233 meters over 918 miles of line in parts of Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Marion, Richland and Wayne counties. For more information, visit [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop).



*Students attending were: Dawson Goldstein, Lucas Rauch, Kevin Garrett, Lily Burkett, Madison Healy, and Millie Beland.*



# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

## Regular meeting March 6, 2017

1. The regular February meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the principal office of the Cooperative, R.F.D., in Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017.
2. Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer, and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose, Executive V.P. General Manager, and Doug Hockman, CECI Member Services Director. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Greg Smith, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.
3. The invocation was given by Kevin Logan. The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:
  4. **APPROVED**, the agenda as presented.
  5. **APPROVED**, the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on January 23, 2017.
  6. **APPROVED**, the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on February 14, 2017.
  7. **REVIEWED**, that the Board of Trustees hereby: (a) approve and admit to membership those 9 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 12 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.
  8. **APPROVED**, a list of work orders in the amount of \$70,323.45.
  9. **REVIEWED**, the checklist for the month of January, 2017, Gen. Mgr. VanHoose noting that the increase in number of checks written was a result of Capital Credit checks being written.
  10. **APPROVED** Invoice as presented by Attorney Melanie Pearce.
  11. **INFORMED** by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose of a request by AIEC General Council on a moratorium for LIHEAP recipients disconnect policy. Thereafter **APPROVED** implementation of the request.
  12. **APPROVED** appointment of Gen. Mgr. Ed VanHoose as Voting Delegate for upcoming CRC Annual Meeting.
  13. **DISCUSSED** and **APPROVED** no change in CoBank Director election.
  14. **DISCUSSED** the recent 2017 NRECA Annual Meeting.
  15. **INFORMED** of quarterly CFC loan payment.
  16. **REVIEWED** CFC Annual Investor Notification information.
  17. **REVIEWED** the January 2017 Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Member update.
  18. **REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED** the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Workers Compensation Policy.
  19. **HEARD** a report by Trustee Herman on the recent SIPC Board meeting and the upcoming SIPC Annual Meeting to be held on March 30, 2017.
  20. Gen. Mgr. VanHoose **REVIEWED** the Prairie State Energy Campus January 2017 report.
  21. **HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan as to the most recent AIEC meeting held February 16, 2017, in Springfield, Illinois at the AIEC Headquarters. Discussion on Board Members attending their Cooperatives Safety Committee meetings. Trustee Logan volunteered to attend the next quarterly CECI Safety Committee meeting, and Trustee Pierson volunteered for the next scheduled one after that. Majority of the rest of the Board members agreed to take their turn at future meetings.
  22. **REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED** the Illinois Budget Report sent by AIEC V.P. Government Relations Nick Reitz.
  23. **DISCUSSED** recent NRECA Course #2610 Understanding the Electric Business.
  24. **REMINDED** of upcoming NRECA Course # 964.10 Communicating in the New Energy Landscape and Discussed attendees.
  25. **HEARD** a Building Committee Report by Trustee Smith, with emphasis on loan monies available, and possible contractors. Committee recommends CFC loan, and Illini Builders of Olney as Contractor. The matter was **TABLED** until the next regular Board Meeting March 27, 2017. Gen. Mgr. VanHoose then **RECOMMENDED** going ahead and starting the CFC line of credit. **APPROVED** beginning the process to obtain the CFC line of credit.
  26. **HEARD**, a financial report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:
    27. January 2017 Form 7;
    28. January 2017 Cash Flow;
    29. SIPC Power Delivered in January, 2017 dated February 8, 2017
      - a. January 2017 Power Factor.
      - b. January 2017 Power Cost Adder
  30. **REVIEWED**, US Bank Credit Card Statement, dated February 20, 2017.
  31. **HEARD**, a General Safety Report from Gen. Mgr. VanHoose for the month of January, 2017. **INFORMED** that Engineer Art Cowan with Poersch Engineering had recently visited. He inspected and approved the work order audit for 2016. Line Clearance Apprentice Layton Molt recently received his Journeyman Tree Trimmer qualification. Operations Mgr. Luke Johnson, and Journeyman Lineman Adam Smith had recently attended the Safety Supervisory Training Conference, and accepted a Safety Leadership Award on behalf of CECI.
  32. **REVIEWED** Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated February 13, 2017. Viewed a video of the Line Clearance crew cutting down a huge tree, and having to close the road to traffic while completing the process. While on the subject, skipped ahead to item # 37;
  37. **VIEWED** a photo of brush cutting before and after picture with recently purchased equipment.
  33. **APPROVED**, moving into Executive Session to discuss Personnel. **APPROVED**, entering back into General Session. **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** the contract as presented by Attorney Tyra Cycholl to represent Clay Electric Cooperative as their Attorney. **HEARD**, a report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:
    34. Net Metering.
    35. Interruptible Service Agreement.
    36. Clay County Water Cost Analysis.
    38. Luke Johnson Supervisory Program completion.
    39. Upcoming ACES Conference.
    40. SIPC Capital Credit Allocations.
    41. Vintage photo of 2 Board Members Frank Czyzewski, and Richard Rudolphi.
    42. Reminder of time change and Board meeting time changes upcoming.
    43. Viewed a Thank You note sent from Member Ronna Schoonover.
    44. No purchase Power Agreements.
    45. **HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a report by Manager VanHoose as to requests for retirement of capital credits for the estates of three deceased Members pursuant to Cooperative policy.
    46. **REVIEWED**, Liability Certificate from Oilfield Electric.


### New Business;

**APPROVED** mileage rate at .54 per mile.

**INFORMED** Illinois Director Phil Carson no longer on SIPC Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared **ADJOURNED**.

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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# New executive order calls for review of the Clean Power Plan

By Dan Riedinger

Throughout the 2016 campaign, Donald Trump pledged to review burdensome federal regulations when he became president. On March 28, President Trump took an important step to follow through on that commitment by signing an executive order to promote energy independence. The order also calls for review of the Clean Power Plan.

“Electric co-ops have two key missions—providing electricity and other services to more than 42 million consumers and empowering the communities they serve,” said Jim Matheson, chief executive officer at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for the nation’s more than 900 electric co-ops.

“The Clean Power Plan jeopardizes co-ops’ ability to accomplish both.”

“If implemented, the plan would hit many of our electric cooperatives extremely hard by forcing them to prematurely shut down existing power plants. Those co-ops would in essence be charged twice for their electricity—once to continue paying down the loans on the closed power plants and again for the cost of purchasing replacement power,” he said.

Co-ops were so concerned about the economic impacts of the Clean Power Plan that they petitioned the courts to review and reject the regulation. The Supreme Court sided with co-ops and imposed a stay of the rule—essentially freezing its implementation. This pause created the Trump administration’s

opportunity to review the rule.

Electric co-ops put the interests of their members first when deciding how to best meet their energy needs. The Trump executive order allows co-ops to continue reducing their carbon footprint while keeping traditional energy resources in the mix. This is critical as co-ops work to preserve both the reliability and affordability of electricity.

It will take the Trump administration a long time to navigate the maze of administrative, regulatory and legal procedures necessary to review the Clean Power Plan. In the meantime, electric co-ops will keep doing what they do best—delivering a consumer-focused energy future that empowers cooperative members and their communities.

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*Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*